

IN THE CLAIMS:

The pending claims and their status follows.

1. (Original) A container assembly, comprising a fitting and a wall, said wall defining a container with an interior and an exterior surface, said wall having a fitting portion in said fitting and a container portion forming said container beyond said fitting, and
said fitting comprising an inner component and an outer component, said outer component being bonded at a first end to said wall and having an outer portion that extends outwardly from said exterior surface of said container, at least a portion of said inner component being situated inside of said outer portion of said outer component, wherein said fitting portion of said wall is apposed to said inner component and to said outer component in said outer portion of said outer component, wherein said fitting portion of said wall is continuous with said container portion.

2. (Original) The assembly of claim 1, wherein said container wall comprises a layer impermeable to hydrocarbons.

3. (Original) The assembly of claim 1, wherein said container is a fuel tank for a vehicle, and said fitting is selected from the group consisting of a fuel inlet fitting, a vapor control valve fitting, and a sender unit attachment fitting.

4. (Original) The assembly of claim 1, wherein said outer component comprises high density polyethylene, and said inner component comprises an acetal.

5. (Original) The assembly of claim 1, wherein said container wall comprises a layer of ethylene vinyl alcohol copolymer.

6. (Original) The assembly of claim 1, wherein said container wall comprises an inner layer of ethylene vinyl copolymer and at least one outer layer of high density polyethylene.

7. (Original) The assembly of claim 6, wherein said fitting portion of said wall has an average thickness of between about 1 mm to about 8 mm.

8. (Original) The assembly of claim 4, wherein said container wall comprises a layer of ethylene vinyl alcohol copolymer.

9-17. (Cancelled).

18. (Amended) A vehicle fuel tank produced by a method of forming a container comprising the steps of:

bonding at least one exterior fitting component to a wall forming material during formation of the container, said exterior fitting component having an exterior portion and a passageway from said exterior portion to a first end opening, wherein said bonding step causes said first end opening to be covered by said wall forming material, and inserting an interior fitting component into said exterior fitting component exterior portion via said first end opening to cause said wall forming material to extend into said exterior portion of said exterior fitting component.

19. (Amended) A vehicle fuel tank produced by a method of forming a container comprising the steps of:

bonding at least one exterior fitting component to a wall forming material during formation of the container, said exterior fitting component having an exterior portion and

a passageway from said exterior portion to a first end opening, wherein said bonding step causes said first end opening to be covered by said wall forming material, and inserting an interior fitting component into said exterior fitting component exterior portion via said first end opening to cause said wall forming material to extend into said exterior portion of said exterior fitting component, wherein said wall forming material comprises a thermoplastic material, said exterior fitting component is bonded to said container wall forming material during thermoplastic forming of said container, and insertion of said interior fitting into said exterior fitting component is used to thermoform said wall forming material into said exterior fitting, and wherein said inserting step is performed at a temperature between about 360°F and about 430 °F.

20-24. (Cancelled).
